

The Bloomfield Record.

AUNT CHARLOTTE'S STORY.

"Now, Ida, my dear girl, take my advice," said Aunt Charlotte to her giddy young niece "and don't imperil your own future happiness nor be guilty of injustice by alighting the man to whom you have given your troth or by foolishly teasing him in order to test his affection. There is a story in my own memory that I have never told you; and I could not now bring myself to do so only that I see you don't like me to lecture you, and I wish you to learn wisdom by an easier method than that of bitter experience."

"When I was a young girl we lived, as you know, in Canada, in one of the small lake-shore towns between Toronto and Kingston. Your grandfather was a man of note in the town, and I was a good deal sought after. I was giddy, too, and selfish, though I did not then consider myself so. I had many admirers and suitors, among whom the one I liked best was Harry Vane. From my very infancy Harry had been my gallant, and though I sometimes pretended to be, and sometimes really was, jealous of him or otherwise offended, and he the same with regard to me, we always made up again and were better friends than ever. There was not really any engagement between us, though Harry had asked me to form one; but my parents objected to long engagements, and we were not ready to marry. Matters stood thus when, early in spring, we had an addition to our list of beaux in the form of a dashing young fellow, an Englishman, sent out by a wealthy firm of the mother country for the purpose of establishing an agency in their line of business. His headquarters had been in Montreal, but he now announced his intention of making our town his home during the summer."

"He had a good deal of leisure, and spent no inconsiderable part of it at our house or promenade the streets with me. I could scarcely set my feet on the sidewalks without encountering him. His name was Bowns, and he claimed to be of aristocratic parentage. He was handsome and affable, though rather suspicious, with a very distinguished appearance; so no wonder the girls of our set wished to attract his attention, and were envious of me. Of course I was proud of my conquest, and perhaps carried myself a little haughtily in consequence. For some time Harry pouted, then openly remonstrated, even pleaded; but as I angrily asserted my independence, he finally desisted from all apparent notice of the matter; and when ever we met he treated me with indifferent courtesy, and altogether showed a manly self-command which I did not fail to note and admire. Still I must confess that at that time I gave very little thought to Harry or to any of my admirers; it seems wonderful to me how completely I was fascinated by the prepossessing stranger."

"To be sure he flattered my vanity not a little, and my empty head was turned by his lavish, adulatory style of compliments. He raved about my eyes of heavenly blue, the golden glow of my mermaid locks, my swan-like neck, and a host of other things that ought to have disgusted me, but did not; and so I listened and he raved. About the middle of August we made up among our set a picnic party to drive out to Rice Lake Plains and spend the day in boating on the lake, gathering huckleberries, wild flowers, &c., and generally amusing ourselves."

"You must know that there is an irregular chain of small lakes extending transversely from the Bay of Quinte, near the eastern end of Lake Ontario, to the eastern end of Superior. Rice Lake is the first of the chain counting from Ontario, and it lies at a distance of from two to four hours' drive from several small towns on the frontier. We had an early breakfast, and set off at eight o'clock, so that we need not be on the road during the heat of the day. There were several carriages; the one in which I rode was a handsome barouche hired from a lively stable for the occasion, and by my side sat the all-conquering Mr. Bowns."

"For some unexplained reason Harry Vane did not go in any of the carriages, but was mounted on horseback, and he rode gaily by the side of first one vehicle, then another. When we had gone a little distance out of town the country air, sights and sounds were so exhilarating that in our carriage began to sing. Harry, hearing us, rode up and joined in the song, he being particularly fond of singing. Shortly we struck out into an old ditch which he and I had sung together countless times, when we were first in the esteem of the other and no grey stranger between us. For a stanza or two Harry sang bravely, but when we came to the refrain suddenly his horse bolted and he fell off, catching at his hat with one hand and seeming to draw rein with the other. The remainder of the party thought his horse had shied and run away with him, but I saw thoroughly the whole manoeuvre, and a sudden pang shot through my selfish heart."

"On reaching the lake at the point agreed upon, we separated into little companies, and wandered about at will, but keeping within the vicinity of the camp until the horn sounded for dinner. We were all, as is usual at picnics, in hungry mood, and we did not dine merrily."

"After dinner we lolled about on the grass for awhile, then formed plans for the afternoon's campaign. There were near by several canoes or row-boats, that were kept for hire, and a fair proportion of our band decided in favor of an excursion on the lake, some parties going in one direction, some in another. The boats would accommodate

only four persons each, the rowers and two others. Three boats, twelve individuals in all, determined to pay a visit to the lower end of the opposite shore of the lake, and about three miles further up. As we divided ourselves into parties of four I felt an irresistible desire to have Harry Vane, who had declared for the tower in our boat, so I called out:

"Harry, you are coming with us? meaning by us, Bowns and myself."

"I shall never forget the look of mingled pain and pleasure with which he replied: 'No, Charlotte; George Law is quartered in your boat.'"

"It was half-past three o'clock when we landed near the tower and drew the boats up on beach. This tower was an octagon building three or four stories in height, consisting of only one room to each story, with a narrow spiral staircase leading from base to summit. At the top was a good-sized observatory not much larger than a good-sized bird-cage, which had once been furnished with a small telescope mounted on a swivel, but was now reduced to a very commonplace spy-glass. The basement was a deep, dungeon-like hole, with a grated door through which one entered a subterranean passage leading out to the shore of the lake. This tower, with its lean-to kitchen or rather, cook-house, was built on a hill at the distance of about two hundred yards from the water's edge, and it was the product of a Quixotic Englishman, an old bachelor's fancy. The whimsical man did not carry out his original intention of making a complete miniature castle of the feudal times, but suddenly abandoned the enterprise and went as he came, nobody knew whither. This odd little tower had been surrounded on all sides, save the deep bay next the water, by a diminutive wall, which was now a dry ditch filled with weeds and wild flowers; there, too, was the wreck of a toy-like drawbridge, and within the enclosure were several quaint-looking garden chairs cut into the stumps of trees. There was a family residing in the house, at least they made it an occasional residence during the summer, but that day they were absent, and the garrulous old servant in charge showed us over the premises. We stole down by the light of a lantern through the underground passage to the opening on the lake; we climbed the steep stairs and peeped through the old spy-glass; sat in the grotesque chairs, and gathered bouquets from the quoniam most. All these vagaries consumed so much time that, before we were aware, the sun was going down behind the western slope in a way that, when we noticed it, sent us to our boats with speed. We were soon gliding over the water in jovial spirits and at a fair rate of motion to the camping place on the shore next home. The three boats kept near together, and as we went we sang Tom Moore's Canadian boat song. Just as our voices were ringing out

"Row, brothers, row, for the stream runs fast. The rapids are near and the daylight is passed" a sudden breeze almost took the light umbrella with which I was screening myself and companion from sun and wind (we had left our bonnets at the camp) out of my hand. The breeze subsided for a moment, then came again more vigorously than before, and held on steadily. Generally or frequently a stiff breeze rises on those lakes about or soon after sunset, but now the sun was certainly half an hour high. Sudden squalls, especially when thunder clouds are hovering near, accompanied by dangerous disturbance of the water, are unpleasantly often the concomitants of boating on those shallow lakes."

"Looking around the horizon we discovered the cause of the suddenly rising wind. A heavy pile of black clouds coming up behind us in the northwest were spreading themselves along the northern horizon and extending upward almost to the zenith; and at the same time we began to hear the thunder muffled and see the lightning playing, though not very near. The weather-wise ones of our party said the shower was spending itself north of us, but we might get a sprinkling from its skirts, and the wind was sure to be troublesome."

"Meanwhile we had crossed the lake and were making our way down to the landing adjoining, which was our camp, keeping close in shore to avoid the commotion of the water."

"There is a peculiarity in that lake. The wild rice, from which it takes its name, grows over almost the entire bottom of the basin, and when at its tallest the grain lies floating on the surface of the water, and the Indians, when it is ripe, paddle round and gather it into their canoes. This, however, makes navigation to ordinary rowers rather difficult; and where the basin is particularly shallow or when the waters are agitated by storms the passage is perilous."

"I soon perceived that Bowns and George Law were by no means masters of the situation; and oh, how I longed for the tried and trusty arm of Harry Vane, to steer our giddy little skiff. Just then Harry, who was ahead, called out to us to make for an inlet, a little way out in the lake, on one side of which there was not much rice, and which had been used by the Indians as a landing place, as it sloped gradually into the water; he said we had better land there and wait for the signal to pass over."

"The rowers turned the boat toward the inlet, and pushed out vigorously. I meantime holding the umbrella low like a tent of awning over my own and Nellie Morton's heads, for now it was raining. Again Harry called to us to shut down the umbrella, lest it should catch the wind and upset our skill, and the next moment, Bowns, who had not said one word to us girls since the wind sprang up, snapped out, 'Yes, cer-

tainly, down with that umbrella!'"

"What with a sense of danger, and what with sudden consternation at being spoken to in such a tone and manner, I had no self-command, and in shutting the umbrella I somehow lost my balance, and the next instant I was sinking in the blinding waters."

"I must have risen very quickly, 'for the boat was there and I laid my hand on its side, but quick as a flash Bowns's hand came down on mine, and though he afterward said that he tried to lay hold of me to assist me, I know that he dislaid my hand. True, I should have upset the boat, and just as true he flung me off to perish. As I sank again, even through the gurgling in my ears, I heard the voice of Harry Vane, 'Courage, Charlotte, I'm coming.'"

"Again I rose and again sank. Then I ceased to struggle and the pain of suffocation was gone. I knew that I was dying, and like electricity all my past life flashed before me. I had no terror of death, but I longed to ask Harry's pardon. Bowns I seemed to have forgotten. The tall rice was all about me, and I knew no more until a deadly sickness and great pain woke me to consciousness. Was it the gurgling water or human speech that tumbled in my ears? I did not know, I did not care; I only wished not to be disturbed—not to suffer."

"Slowly my comprehension returned and I found myself on a bed in the log-cabin of the man who kept the boats on hire, and it was night, for candles were burning. Some of my companions of the picnic were there, but I was too ill and weary to ask questions."

"When next I opened my eyes it was daylight and my father and mother were bending over me."

"Suddenly I remembered something of the drowning and I cried out, 'Where is Harry? He said he was coming.'"

"They hushed and soothed me and I suppose administered a narcotic, for I have only a faint recollection of lying on a bed in a covered conveyance and of being annoyed by the jolting."

"The next time I awoke my mind was clear. I recollected all, and begged to be told how I was saved. My friends evaded this question, and my suspicions being aroused I demanded to see Harry Vane. Finding they could no longer put me off, they told me that Harry resented me and swam with me toward the inlet, where one of the boats had just landed. Another gentleman waded out breast high to meet him, and drew me to the shore, supposing that Harry was following. But Harry did not follow, and in the excitement about me he was not missed until too late. Whether he was exhausted or whether he took a cramp no one could tell. This only I know and never shall forget; Harry Vane was drowned in saving my life. This also I know: I shall live and die Charlotte Kemp. As for Bowns, I hated 'em, I hate still, the sound of his name. He left our town almost immediately after the occurrence; and I never saw his face after the day of the picnic."

Who will it be?—The postponement of the City of New York Public Library to the Library to November 30th, 1874, was resolved upon to make a full drawing a certainty. There will positively be no further postponement, and the great prize will be the magnificent sum of \$250,000. Who will get it? What a pestered man Gov. Bramlette, of Louisville, the business manager, would be, if the people supposed he could tell."

State of New Jersey.
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER.
TREASURY, N. J., July 22, 1874.
To the Hon. Henry C. Keady, Secretary of State:
You are hereby directed to cause to be published in all the newspapers of this State authorized to publish the laws of the last session of the Legislature, by one insertion each week for the term of three months, in each of said newspapers, the proposed Amendments to the Constitution of New Jersey, passed by the Legislature and filed in your office by the Secretary of the Senate."

JOEL PARKER, Governor.
Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey.

ARTICLE I.
RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES.
Insert as paragraph 19, a new paragraph as follows: "19. No county, city, borough, town, township or village shall hereafter give any money or property, or loan the credit, or in aid of any individual, association or corporation, or become security for, or be directly or indirectly the owner of any stock or bonds of any corporation or corporation."

Insert as paragraph 20, a new paragraph as follows: "20. No donation of land or appropriation of money shall be made by the state or any municipal corporation to or for the use of any society, association or corporation whatever."

Change the number of present paragraph 19 to number 21.

ARTICLE II.
RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE.
Section 1.
Strike out the word "white" between the word "every" and the word "male" in the first line. Add to the paragraph the following: "And provided further, that in time of war no elector in the actual military service of the state, or of the United States, in the army or navy thereof, shall be deprived of his vote, by reason of his absence from such election district; and the Legislature shall have power to provide the manner in which, and the time and place at which, such absent elector may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election districts in which they respectively reside."

Section 2.
Strike out all of the second section after the word "hereby."

ARTICLE IV.
LEGISLATURE.
Section 1.
Paragraph 3—Strike out the words "second Tuesday of October," and insert in lieu thereof the words "first Tuesday after the first Monday in November."

Section 17.
Paragraph 7—Strike out the following words: "No county, city, borough, town, township or village shall hereafter give any money or property, or loan the credit, or in aid of any individual, association or corporation, or become security for, or be directly or indirectly the owner of any stock or bonds of any corporation or corporation."

vide of any existing law, or any part thereof, shall be made or deemed a part of the act, or which shall enact that any existing law, or any part thereof, shall be applicable, except by inserting it in such act."

Paragraph 6—Insert the word "free" between the words "public" and "schools," and add to the paragraph the following:

"The Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for the instruction of all the children in this State between the ages of five and eighteen years."

Paragraph 8—Strike out Paragraph 8, as follows: "The assent of three-fifths of the members elected to each house shall be requisite to the passage of every law for granting, continuing, altering, amending or renewing charters for banks or money corporations; and all such charters shall be limited to a term not exceeding twenty years."

Change the present number of paragraph 9 to 9. No private special, or local bill shall be passed, unless public notice of the intention to apply therefor, and of the general object thereof, shall have been previously given. The Legislature, at the next session after the adoption thereof, and from time to time thereafter, shall prescribe the time and mode of giving such notice, the evidence thereof, and how such evidence shall be preserved."

Insert as paragraph 11, a new paragraph, as follows: "11. The Legislature shall not pass private, local or special laws in any of the following enumerated cases, that is to say:—

"Laying out, opening, altering and working roads or highways."

"Vacating any road, town plot, street alley or public grounds."

"Suggesting the internal affairs of towns and municipalities; appointing local officers or commissions to regulate municipal affairs."

"Selecting juries, summoning or compelling grand or petit jurors."

"Creating, increasing or decreasing the percentage of allowance of public officers during the term for which said officers were elected or appointed."

"Granting to any corporation, association or individual any exclusive privilege, immunity or franchise whatsoever."

"Granting to any corporation, association or individual the right to lay down railroad tracks."

"Providing for changes of venue in civil or criminal cases."

"Providing for the management and support of free public schools."

"The Legislature shall pass general laws providing for the cases enumerated in this paragraph, and for all other cases which, in its judgment, may be provided for by general laws. The Legislature shall also pass special acts conferring corporate powers, but they shall contain no clause which corporations may be organized and corporate powers of every nature established, subject, nevertheless, to repeal or alteration, at the will of the Legislature."

Insert as paragraph 12, a new paragraph, as follows: "12. Property shall be assessed for taxes under general laws, and by uniform rules, according to its true value."

Section XVII.
Insert as paragraph 2, a new paragraph, as follows: "2. Every officer of the Legislature shall, before he enters upon his duties, take and subscribe the following oath or affirmation: 'I do solemnly promise and swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all the duties of the office of _____, to the best of my ability and understanding; that I will carefully preserve all records, papers, writings or property entrusted to me for safe keeping by virtue of my office, and make such disposition of the same as may be required by law.'"

ARTICLE V.
EXECUTIVE.
Paragraph 6—After the word "Legislature," where it occurs first in said paragraph, insert the words "or the Senate also."

Paragraph 7—Add to the paragraph the following: "If any bill presented to the Governor contain several items of appropriations of money, he may object to any one or more of such items while approving the other portions of the bill. In such case he shall append to his veto a statement of his objection, and the bill shall be returned to the Legislature with the objection noted. If the Legislature, on reconsideration, one or more of such items be approved by a majority of the members elected to each house, the same shall be a part of the law, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor. All the provisions of the Constitution relating to bills shall apply to such bills as shall be approved by the Legislature in whole or in part."

Paragraph 8—Add to the paragraph the following: "No bill shall be elected by the Legislature to any office under the government of this State or of the United States during the term for which he shall have been elected Governor."

ARTICLE VII.
APPOINTMENT POWER AND TENURE OF OFFICE.
Section 1.
MILITIA OFFICERS.
Paragraph 5—After the words "major general," insert the words "the adjutant general and quartermaster general."

Paragraph 9—Strike out the words "the adjutant general and quartermaster general." Also strike out the word "where." If no change is made in the word "and" where it occurs in the paragraph, it shall be deemed a change.

Paragraph 10—Strike out the word "and" where it occurs in the paragraph, and insert after the word "appeals" the following words: "and the judges of the inferior court of common pleas."

Paragraph 11—Strike out paragraph 3 to number 2, and strike therefrom the following words: "and the keeper and inspector of the state prison," and insert in lieu thereof the words "and controller." Also, strike out the words "one year" in the second clause of paragraph 3, and insert in lieu thereof the words "three years."

Change the number of present paragraph 4 to number 3, and strike out the word "and" where it occurs between the word "chancery" and the word "secretary." Also, insert after the word "secretary" the words: "and the keeper of the state prison."

Change the number of present paragraph 5 to number 4.

Change the present number of paragraph 6 to number 5.

Change the number of present paragraph 7 to number 6, and strike therefrom the words "annually," and insert in lieu thereof the words "and where it occurs serve three years, but no longer." Insert after the word "assembly" the following words: "and they shall hold their office for three years," and add to the paragraph the following words: "whereas shall annually renew their office."

Change the number of present paragraph 8 to number 7.

Change the number of present paragraph 9 to number 8.

Change the number of present paragraph 10 to number 9.

Change the number of present paragraph 11 to number 10.

ARTICLE VIII.
RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE.
Section 1.
Strike out the word "male" in the first line. Add to the paragraph the following: "And provided further, that in time of war no elector in the actual military service of the state, or of the United States, in the army or navy thereof, shall be deprived of his vote, by reason of his absence from such election district; and the Legislature shall have power to provide the manner in which, and the time and place at which, such absent elector may vote, and for the return and canvass of their votes in the election districts in which they respectively reside."

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Strike out all of the second section after the word "hereby."

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